

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 2 is amended and new claims 23-25 are added.

Claim 2 is amended to recite (added material underlined, deleted material bracketed) "The batten of claim 1, in which the second ply includes a planar portion and a multiplicity of cross portions [plies] extending between the planar portion and the first ply [first plies]." Basis for the additional subject matter recited in claim 2 may be found, e.g., in U.S. Patent 6,357,193, column 3, line 18 et seq. and in Figure 5.

New claim 23 depends from amended claim 2 and recites "the first ply and second ply comprise a plastic." Support for new claim 23 can be found, e.g., in U.S. Patent 6,354,193, column 3, line 34 et seq.

New claims 24 and 25 depend from amended claim 2 and recite that " the cross portions are generally transverse to the first ply" and that " the cross portions are generally perpendicular to the first ply," respectively. Support for new claims 24 and 25 can be found in the same portions of U.S. Patent 6,354,193 as cited with respect to claim 2.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims or by the added claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. Larry Alexander".

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